

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,100

Examiner

Khiem Nguyen

Applicant(s)

BRADLEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/2/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Khiem Nguyen
Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The follow copy claim listing of the allowed claims filed with the amendment of 2/2/006 is needed since the original faxed claim listing is hard to read.

15. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber connector comprising:

a bottom portion having a groove; a top portion; and a first wedge and a second wedge that are configured to fit at least partially between the top portion and the bottom portion while the top portion is attached to the bottom portion; wherein the first wedge is configured to bear against and to press a first optical fiber into the groove when the first wedge is activated by being slid toward the second wedge; and wherein the second wedge is configured to bear against and to press a second optical fiber into the groove when the second wedge is activated by being slid toward the first wedge; at least one of said wedges being movable a distance sufficient to produce an optical coupling of the fibers.

16. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the connector is configured such that when the first wedge and the second wedge are activated, the first optical fiber and the second optical fiber are optically coupled.

17. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to reduce an amount of pressure applied on the first optical fiber by the first wedge when the first wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the second wedge.

18. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to enable the first optical fiber to be removed from the optical fiber connector when the first wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the second wedge.

19. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the second wedge is configured to reduce an amount of pressure applied on the second optical fiber when the second wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the first wedge.

20. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the second wedge is configured to enable the second optical fiber to be removed from the optical fiber connector when the second wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the first wedge.

21. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to press a first plurality of optical fibers into a plurality of grooves in the bottom portion when the first wedge is activated, and the second wedge is configured to press a second plurality of optical fibers into the plurality of grooves when the second wedge is activated.

22. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the bottom portion has a plurality of larger V-grooves and a plurality of smaller V-grooves, each larger V-groove being wider than each smaller V-groove.

Art Unit: 2839

23. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 22, wherein each larger V-grooves is longitudinally aligned with a respective smaller V-groove and with a respective larger V-groove.
24. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 23, wherein the plurality of larger V-grooves are configured to support buffered portions of respective optical fibers.
25. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 24, wherein the plurality of smaller V-grooves are configured to support exposed portions of respective optical fibers.
26. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge and the second wedge each include a head portion and a body portion.
27. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 26, wherein the body portion has a sloping wedge surface and a bottom wedge surface.
28. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 27, wherein each head portion has an activation surface that can be pressed to activate a corresponding wedge, and a de-activation surface that can be pressed to de-activate the corresponding wedge.
29. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 28, wherein the first wedge and the second wedge are placed between the top portion and the bottom portion before the top portion is attached to the bottom portion.
30. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 29, wherein after the top portion is attached to the bottom portion, each sloping wedge surface faces a sloping bottom surface of the top portion, and each wedge head is accessible via an opening in the top portion.


Art Unit: 2839

31. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 30, wherein sliding the first wedge toward the second wedge causes the sloping wedge surface of the first wedge to press against a respective one of the sloping bottom surfaces of the top portion.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-2096. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839